



LIVABLE DEDHAM

A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD

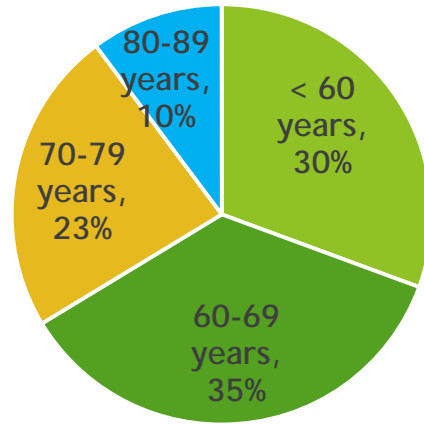
TOWN SURVEY RESULTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
September 29, 2016

Study Overview

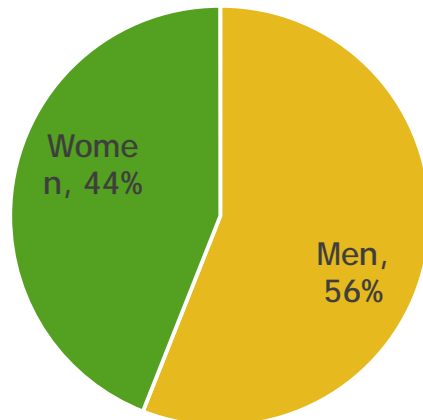
- ▶ Survey based on existing instruments (AARP, UMass Gerontology Institute) and customized for Dedham
- ▶ Survey conducted March 4 to April 18, 2016
- ▶ Paper survey sent to 5,717 Dedham residents aged 55 to 90
- ▶ Paper surveys available at libraries, town hall, other town locations
- ▶ Online survey advertised via town website, ads in newspapers, Liveable Dedham Facebook page, church bulletins
- ▶ About 600 surveys returned (249 paper, 343 online)

Survey Respondents' Ages Generally Mirror the Dedham Population Aged 55+

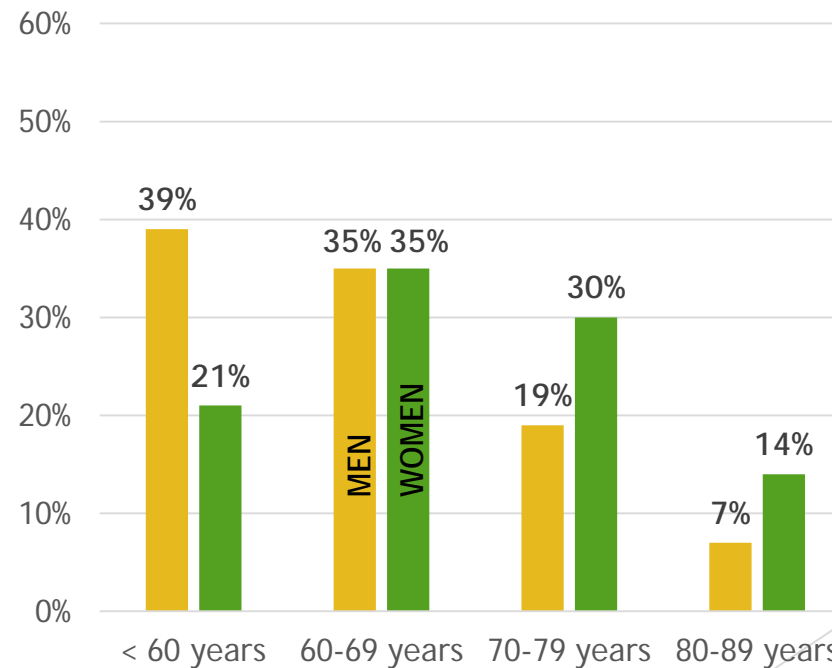
Age of Respondents



Gender of Respondents

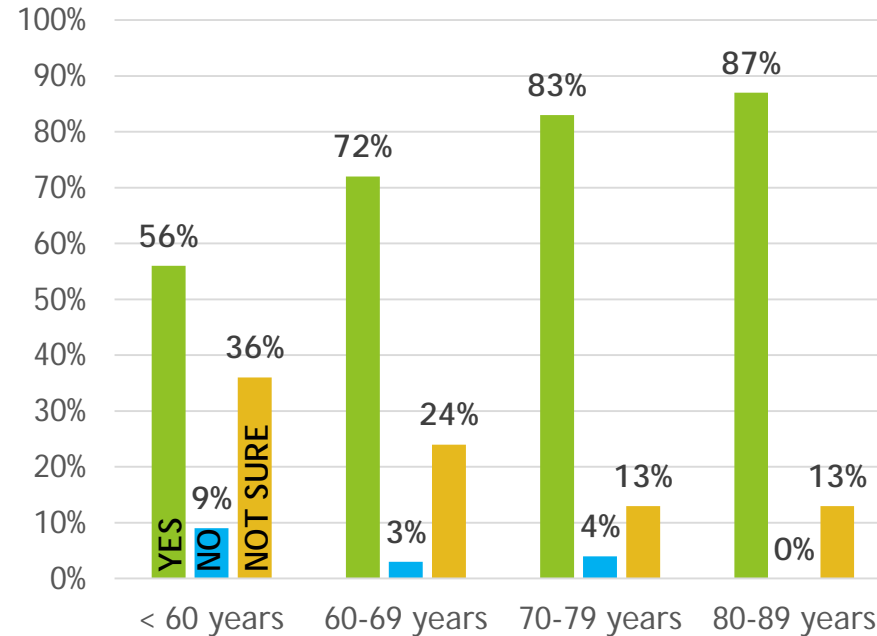


Age by Gender



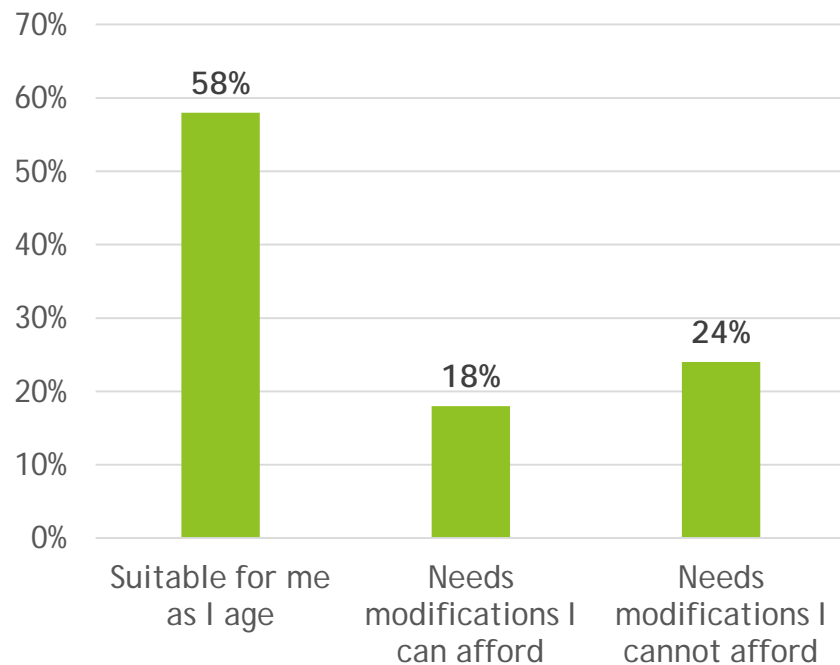
Would you like to remain in Dedham as you age? Mostly YES but

- ▶ 71% of respondents want to stay in Dedham but this varies by age
- ▶ Younger respondents more likely to be unsure

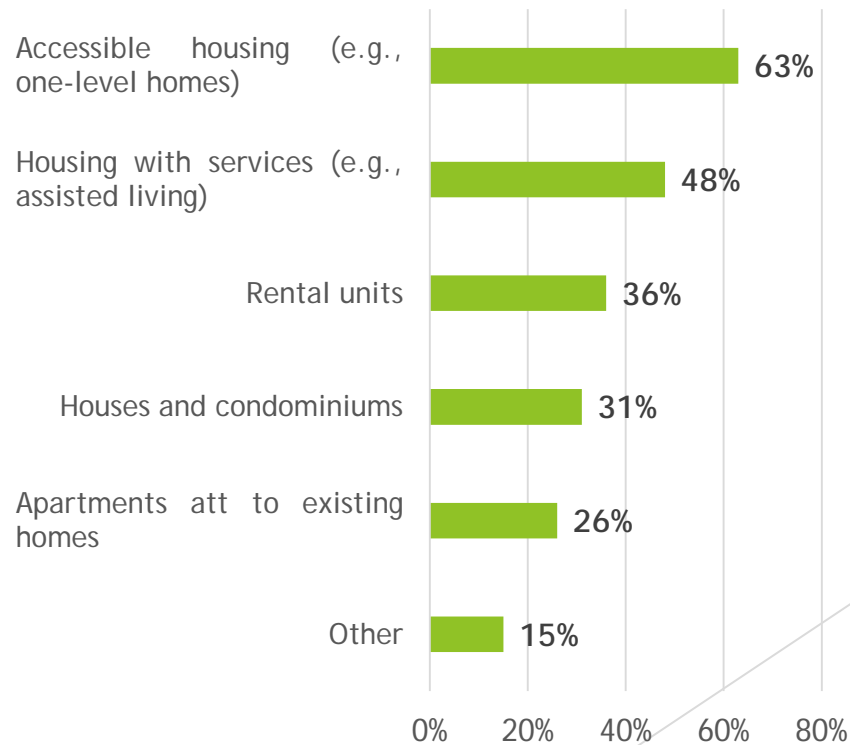


Suitability of Own Home for Aging is Poor; More Accessible Housing Needed

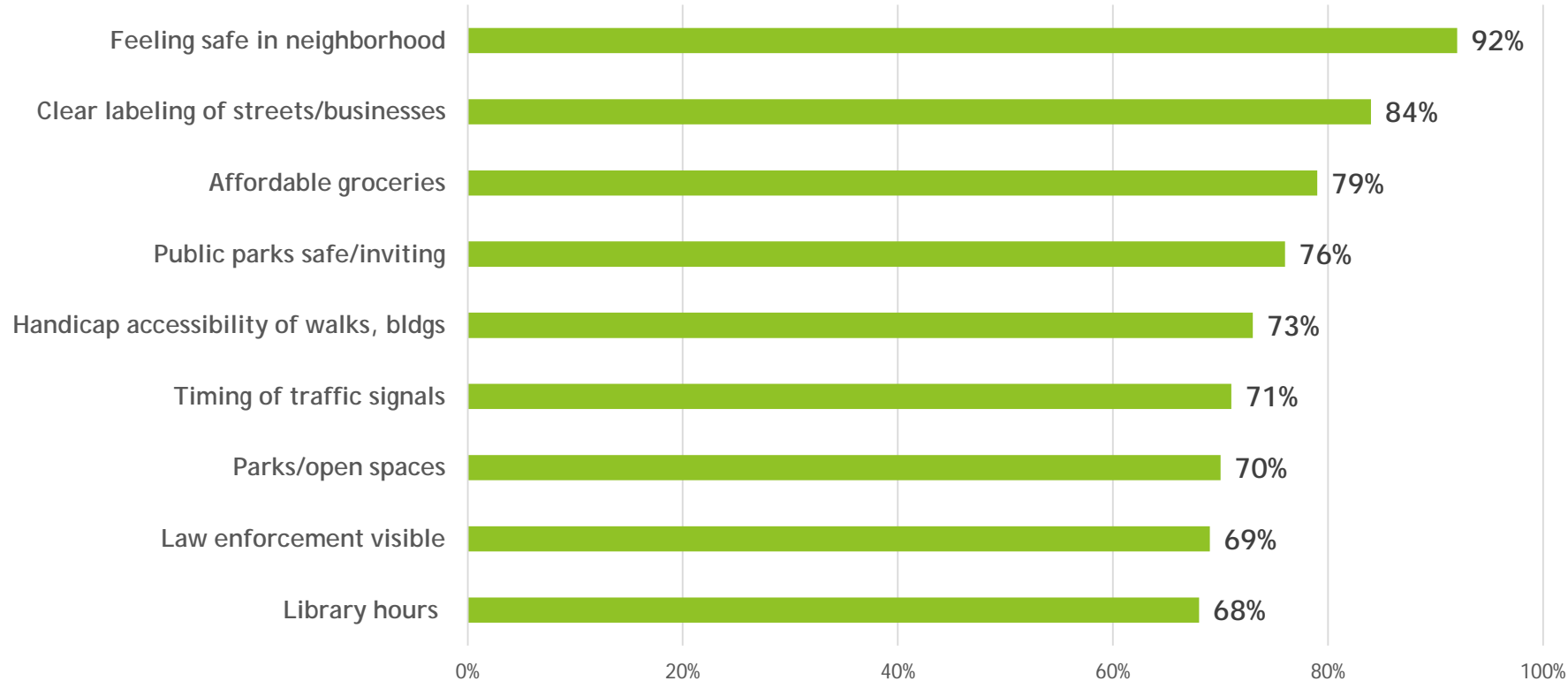
Suitability of Current Home as You Age



Type of Housing Needed in Dedham



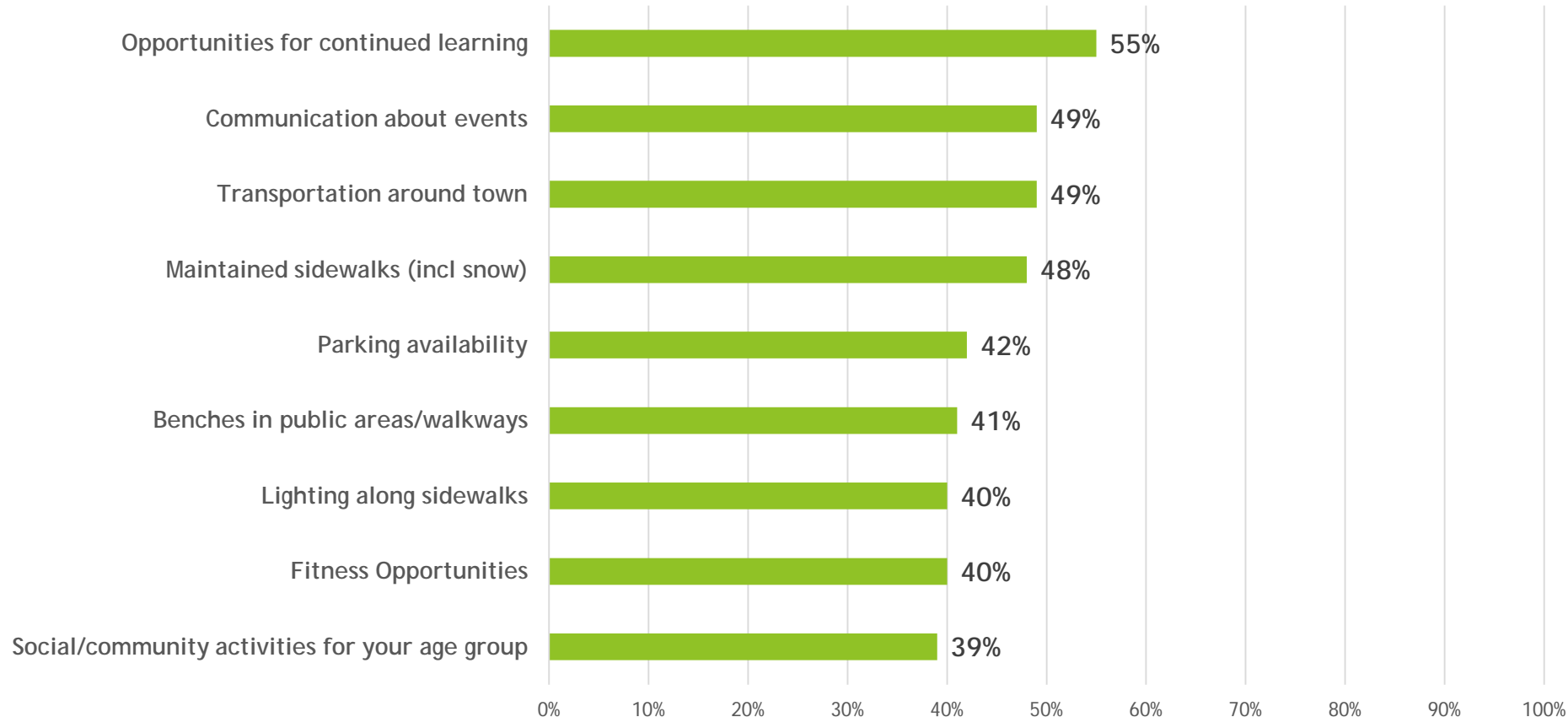
Areas of Greatest Satisfaction*



"My husband passed away last year but I feel very safe here and my neighbors are all very good to me. I hope to remain in this house the rest of my life. I have always loved Dedham and find it to be a very friendly town where there is always help available." Age 80+

* Percentage of positive responses

Areas of Greatest Dissatisfaction*



* Percentage of negative responses

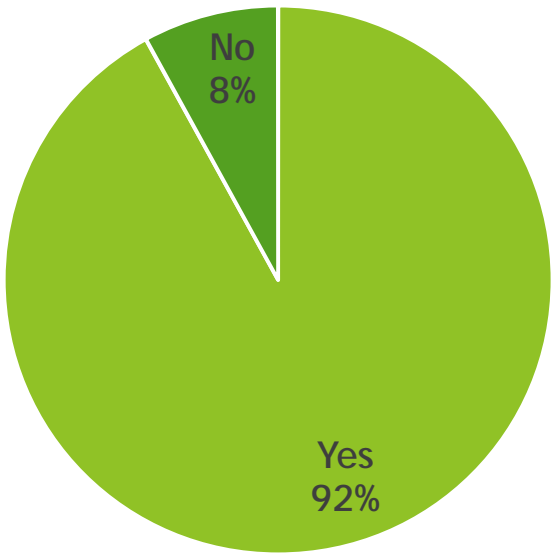
"Increase public education about activities and services available for older adults. We are new to the area and active on the internet. We can find the information if we search for it but it doesn't seem easy to access." Age 60 – 69

"Increase information passage to residents 55+ of resources available to them. If one does not know what is available or how to find out, the resources are useless." Age 70 – 79

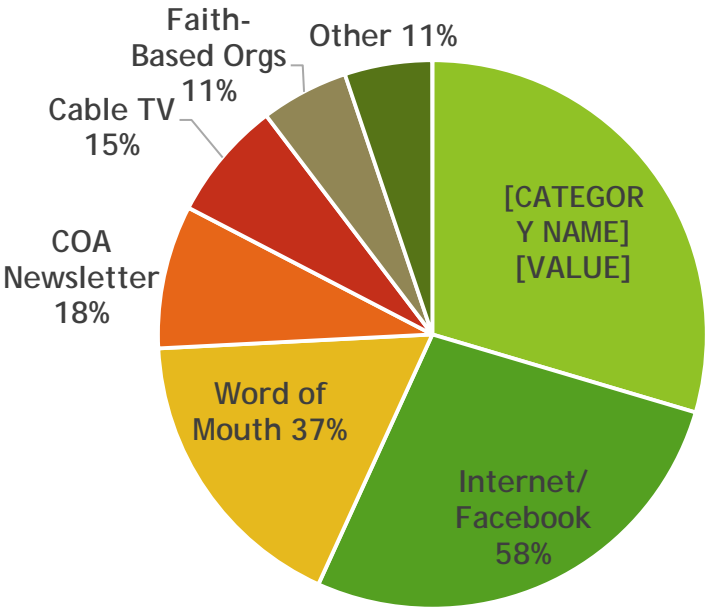
"With people living longer and wanting to stay healthy through exercise, and the roads getting more and more clogged with aggressive and distracted drivers, I think the biggest challenge is finding safe places to walk and bicycle outside without the danger of getting hit by a car!" Age < 60

Most Respondents Have Internet Access; Older Residents Rely on Newspapers

Internet Access at Home



Preferred Sources of Information
about programs, activities and services



Is Dedham Age-Friendly? Mixed Reviews.

	AGREE	DISAGREE
Older residents are treated respectfully in Dedham.	77%	23%
Dedham is welcoming and inviting for older adults.	63%	37%
Older residents have a say in community matters:		
< 70 years of age	68%	32%
70-89 years of age	44%	56%
Older residents are encouraged to volunteer and remain engaged in the community.	62%	38%

Senior Center Much Anticipated

- ▶ “The development of a vibrant senior center would a great start. The center should provide opportunities for social and educational experiences.” - Age 60 - 69
- ▶ “A dedicated senior center with classes, services, and support.” - Age 60 - 69
- ▶ “Senior center with fitness, gym.” - Age 60 -69
- ▶ “A new Senior Center, Expand the Library. Comparing those same services with those offered in Westwood and Norwood puts Dedham to Shame.” - Under Age 60
- ▶ “When the new Senior Center opens I would like to see many educational and instructive opportunities as they have in the Norwood Center.” - Age 70 -79

Recommendations for Action

▶ SHORT TERM

- ▶ Improve Communication: events, volunteering, services
- ▶ Prepare for Opening of New Senior Center and Expansion of Services
 - ▶ Charge a task force with creating a vision, generating ideas, improving communication
 - ▶ Ensure a vibrant array of offerings to engage a broad spectrum of ages and interests
- ▶ Focus on Healthy Movement: walk audit, sidewalk improvements, paths connecting neighborhoods
- ▶ Improve Volunteerism and Civic Engagement: launch a senior ambassador program
- ▶ Improve Housing Options for 55+: home modification certification, panel to explore models, engage developers

▶ LONGER TERM

- ▶ Increase Inventory of Affordable, Accessible Housing
- ▶ Address Transportation Issues: Uber for seniors, ride sharing
- ▶ Increase Lifelong Learning Opportunities: convene town departments and civic entities to collaborate to expand offerings